

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 COME-00 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 INT-05 OES-06 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3411

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOVIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN EAID COMECON EEC

SUBJECT: CEMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS IN CUBA

SUMMARY: PRAVDA REPORTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL FOR MUTUAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (CEMA) MET JANUARY 17-19, IN HAVANA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS FIRST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW EXCEPT IN CONNECTION WITH COUNCIL SESSIONS, WHICH ALTERNATE BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBER CAPITALS. COMMUNIQUE INDICATES SESSION CONCENTRATED ON CUBAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE AID TO CUBA. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED PLANS FOR CONTACTS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY ECE AND UNESCO. ANOTHER UNUSUAL NOTE WAS MEETING OF CEMA REPRESENTATIVES WITH GUYANAN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT. BEHIND COMMUNIQUE'S REFERENCE TO AN EXCHANGE OF OPINION

ON CEMA-EC RELATIONS, WE HAVE LEARNED WAS DECISION TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE NEXT CEMA STEP FOLLOWING EC REPLY TO EARLIER CEMA PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

1. CEMA 79TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION TOOK PLACE FROM JAN 17-19 IN HAVANA. VENUE IS APPARENTLY A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS CEMA PRACTICE SINCE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ONLY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW HAVE BEEN THOSE HELD IN CONNECTION WITH COUNCIL SESSIONS, WHICH ARE HELD IN CAPITALS, FOLLOWING RUSSIAN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIQUE IN JAN 21 PRAVDA, SESSION MAINLY CONCERNED CUBAN ECONOMY AND WAYS IN WHICH CEMA COUNTRIES COULD HELP CUBA SOLVE PROBLEMS. AS FORESHADOWED BY JAN 19 PRAVDA ARTICLE ON OPENING OF SESSION, GREATEST ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO CUBAN NICKEL AND CELLULOSE-PAPER INDUSTRIES. IN ANOTHER DEPARTURE FROM PRACTICE, SESSION WAS OPENED WITH SPEECH BY HEAD OF STATE-FIRST SECRETARY FIDEL CASTRO. IN SPEECH, AS REPORTED BY SOVIET PRESS, CASTRO PRAISED CEMA COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY SOVIET UNION, FOR THEIR AID IN HELPING TO BUILD "SOCIALISM" IN CUBA AND PLACED BLAME FOR CUBAN ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ON WESTERN COUNTRIES. HE ALSO PRAISED EQUITABLENESS FOR LDC'S OF RELATIONS WITH CEMA AND CONTRASTS THEM WITH EXPLOITATIVE NATURE OF ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EC).

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES KEEP IN MIND PROBLEMS OF THE CUBAN ECONOMY ALLEGEDLY FLOWING FROM INFLATIONARY AND OTHER PHENOMENA OF THE WORLD CAPITALIST MARKET." IT DISCUSSED WAYS OF CARRYING OUT JUNE 1975 CEMA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECISION FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION BY CUBA OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING NICKEL AND COBALT AND EXAMINED PROGRESS ON PROPOSAL FOR COOPERATION OF INTERESTED CEMA COUNTRIES ON INDUSTRIAL UTILIZATION OF SURPLUS SUGAR STOCKS.

3. IN APPROVING ITS 1977 WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE NOTED THAT IT WILL PRIMARILY CONSIST OF WORKING OUT LONG-TERM TARGET PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION AND CARRYING OUT THE "COMPLEX PROGRAM". IT ALSO APPROVED A PLAN FOR CONTACTS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IN PARTICULAR ECE AND UNESCO, WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS, "IN ACCORD WITH SPIRIT OF HELSINKI."

4. COMMUNIQUE GIVES BARE MENTION OF AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON RELATIONS BETWEEN CEMA AND EC. WEST GERMANS TELL US SESSION DECIDED TO SET UP WORKING GROUP TO FORMULATE A RESPONSE TO THE EC'S REPLY TO EARLIER CEMA INITIATIVE ON RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS.

5. FINAL POINT IN COMMUNIQUE ALSO PROVIDES A SURPRISE:
CEMA REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH GUYANAN MINISTER OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DESMOND WHITE, WHO EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S
INTEREST IN GROWTH OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH
CEMA COUNTRIES ON BILATERAL AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL BASIS.

6. COMMENT: THE SESSION'S UNUSUAL VENUE OBVIOUSLY TAILORED
THE AGENDA. WE ARE UNAWARE OF PREVIOUS CASE WHERE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE SESSION HAS BEEN ADDRESSED BY HEAD OF STATE, FIRST
SECRETARY, OR PRIME MINISTER. ALTHOUGH CEMA MEMBER COUNTRIES'
SUPPORT IN DEVELOPMENT OF CUBAN ECONOMY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED
AT OTHER CEMA SESSIONS, THIS SESSION APPEARS TO HAVE AT LEAST
OPTICALLY REINFORCED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. WE SUSPECT
THAT GIVEN BURDEN WHICH CUBAN ECONOMY REPRESENTS ON SOVIET
RESOURCES, IT WOULD WELCOME A GREATER SHARING OF THIS LOAD
BY CEMA PARTNERS.

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UM IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG CEMA COUNTRIES,
WE ASSUME TASK OF RESPONDING TO EC WILL NOT BE EASY, AND
THEREFORE IT COULD BE A WHILE BEFORE RESPONSE IS READY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: ECIN, EAID, UR, CU, COMECON, EEC, CEMA
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